

FROM THE FIELD.

Virginia Notes.

The German Baptist Annual Meeting at Harrisonburg closes today. The meeting was attended by a multitude of people, even the rain did not seem to materially check the assembling of the people on the grounds. Between 10,000 and 20,000 people were on the grounds on Tuesday. Indiana furnished the lowest visiting number. Eld. S. S. Mohler, of Missouri was made Moderator, John Wise, of Kansas Reading Clerk and J. G. Royer, of Illinois Writing Clerk. Robert Miller, D. L. Miller, J. G. Royer, S. S. Mohler and Enoch Eby seemed to be the leaders of the meeting and spokesmen of the church.

Christian Hope, the Danish and Swedish Missionary, is a man of small stature, sandy beard and of foreign dialect, which indicates that of a Swede. The report of the Home and Foreign mission work was good, and so far as I know, was the best of the business reported. Elder Orr, of Philadelphia and B. C. Moomaw of this state were two German Baptists in Progressive Brethren clothes. While listening to their many queries sent up from council meetings, through District Meetings to Annual Meeting, it seemed to me that it is folly to congregate such a mass of people and waste such an enormous sum of money to discuss and pass such minor points of doctrine and customs. It is a waste of time and money to pass and discuss these queries through council, District and Annual meetings. I read no where that an offending brother's case should be passed up by three different tribunals. It is more scriptural to tell the brother between him and thee alone, then take two or three brethren, and if he will not hear these, then tell it to the church. But I cannot read where a case goes to two other higher earthly tribunals. Twelve or more good sensible Christian men in the home congregation are in all probability as capable of dealing with the case or cases, as so many men of a higher tribunal where little or nothing is known of the case under consideration, and which has to be often referred to the home delegate where the query arose for an explanation of the case.

We met some of our brethren on the Annual Meeting grounds. Sister Cosper, of Nappanee, Indiana was there. She also visited friends and relatives here. She was baptized by Bro. Mason, although Bro. Cober is her pastor. She had many friends and some of our brethren with her from Indiana.

Our brethren at Johnstown, Pa., as well as all the unfortunate has had our warmest sympathy. I was acquainted with Rev. J. B. Rittgers by correspondence, and R. Z. Replogle by personal acquaintance, consequently were very anxious to know their condition. Today, I notice, to my joy, that Bro. Rittgers has a report in the EVANGELIST, stating the condition of the brethren there, which is not so bad as feared.

We hear that a new Brethren church paper is expected to be published. Perhaps there would be nothing wrong in such a move if three papers could be sustained, but as it is I fear that

eventually one or two of the three will be swallowed up by the other. It seems to me to be almost impossible to make the attempt at this time, as we are too few in numbers, and of too little experience for such a move at present. Why should there be an extra? Is not our weekly already lacking for original press matter? Is it not good enough? Then make it better. You can do it, at least it would appear so to you if you were to try for six months, by contributing to its columns.

Our editors have had a pretty tough hackling and the paper seems to have passed over the rough sea, but there seems to be more rough sea approaching. If we are so minded we can complain at our father, mother, brother, sister, wife, children and neighbors, and in many cases they are far better than those who complain of them. If we take a reasonable forethought, an intelligent conception of things there can be no reasonable excuse for complaint. Place two men on a hill a distant apart, let each look at the other, and each will see all of the other fellow and nothing of himself. A man standing and looking at others working and is disposed to find fault can suggest a score of improvements both as to the workmen and the workmanship, but get that man to take hold and help to do the work and in all probability he will consider the workmen better, the work harder to do, and the work done better than before he took hold.

Two church weeklies of a sect no larger than the Brethren can only I fear breed contention, confusion and divide asunder our forces, instead of concentrating our actions and uniting under God's mantle of Christian charity. The manager of the EVANGELIST and I do not agree on some minor or insignificant matter of thought, yet that does not cause me to not love him. Two of our brethren whom I love most differ on the immortality soul question. You may believe that you can't raise potatoes unless you plant them on a day that some old Almanac man says the sign is up or down, as you may like; another may believe in some other superstitious things, yet I would think you a very unfair, and ungentlemanly man to require me to plant my potatoes when you believed your superstitious sign told you to plant yours, at least when I was raising plenty of potatoes and you were raising none or few at least.

In Titus we read that we should avoid foolish questions and contentions about the law, for they are vain and unprofitable. In Galatians we read that the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. Now if these are the fruit of the spirit we must have them, else we have not the spirit. I find out that the greatest man to conquer, not excepting Caesar, Napoleon or our Washington, is self. I find that the man who causes the most trouble is self. Well has the wise man Solomon said, 'that he that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.' If each would try to rule himself better all will be better. May God help us to do so.

Geo. A. Copp.

Fisher's Hill, Va.

Clifton Mills, W. Va.

On Friday morning, 7th inst., wife and I left home for the Grove congregation, Fayette Co., Pa. By noon we arrived at the home of bro. Davis, in said county. The evening found us at the home of bro. Morton, where we put up for the night. Saturday, 8 o'clock P. M., found us at the home of bro. Joseph Moser; about five o'clock we repaired to the meeting house, it being the time appointed to hold the love-feast services. The appointment was kept. We had a pleasant, sociable and we believe, to all, an enjoyable meeting. Congregation gave the best of attention, and maintained good order. Sister Sterling, [wife of John Sterling] and her daughter Mary of Masontown, Pa., were with us. Sister Mary preached for us on Lord's day using as her subject the inscription placed upon the cross above our Savior. She did nobly. She seems to have the cause of the master at heart, and gives promise of great usefulness. Hope she may be favorably received by the churches every where.

We have been requested to show from the Gospel that, 'woman has a right to preach.' This we will probably do on Sunday evening, July 14, at the Grove.

Sunday evening services closed our meetings at the Grove. On Monday evening we preached to a fair congregation at the Woodbridge Union church. On Tuesday returned home. The church house at the Grove has been receiving some attention of late and now makes a splendid appearance inside. We have now been laboring as pastor at the Grove since Jan. 1st, 1889. Hope our labor together may prove to be of such a nature and character as to tend to our mutual good, and to the honor and glory of God. So that when we have passed our days here, meeting at our homes, and in the public assembly; worshipping at a common altar, laboring together for a common Master, to secure a common destiny,—we may all be gathered home in our Father's house of many mansions, to drink of the clear water of life, and pluck the ambrosial fruit of paradise and eat and live forever. We felt sorry that our esteemed bro. Joseph Moser could not meet with us, to participate in our Communion services. He is afflicted but is always cheerful and pleasant,—waiting! waiting for the time to come when the affliction of life will be over.

S. W. WILT.

Occidentals.

Occidentals intended for No. 24 missed connection, or were lost altogether. They contained a notice of our love feast which we had expected to hold on the evening of the 15 inst. So far as the love feast was concerned it was well the article did not appear, as we postponed the feast.

The dread disaster at Johnstown continues to be the all-absorbing topic among us here. We wanted so much to hear how our brethren there fared in the general destruction of life and property. While we sorrow for the few that perished we rejoice with those that escaped with their lives. My efforts to get information about our brethren in the ruined city has borne some fruit. I am indebted to Bro.

Jacob Replogle for a newspaper clipping containing the following:

THE HORRORS OF A NIGHT.

SURROUNDED BY FURIOUS WATERS.

Terrible Experience of Bro. R. Z. Replogle and his Family and the Sad Fate of Sister Nannie Aaron, daughter of Bro. Jacob Furry of New Enterprise, Pa., and Her Little Daughter.

The mind of man can scarcely conceive of a more terrible experience than that through which Mr. Rinar Replogle and his family passed in the Johnstown flood nor of a more pathetic story than that which tells the fate of Mrs. Harry B. Aaron and her daughter, Mrs. Replogle and Mrs. Aaron were sisters. They grew up together in a home of peace and plenty in the beautiful Morrison's Cove. They married well, and were happy in the love of devoted husbands and affectionate children. Some time ago Mr. Replogle moved to Johnstown and secured a good situation in one of the many industries there. A week or two ago Mrs. Aaron took her daughter, aged 10 years, and went to Johnstown to pay a visit to her sister. Last Friday afternoon they were all together in the Replogle home, enjoying themselves, with no thought of the terrible calamity that hung over them. Suddenly the awful roar of the furious water was heard, and in a moment the torrent poured in. They hurried to the attic, Mr. Replogle leading the way, his wife and seven children following and clinging to him and to each other, and Mrs. Aaron and daughter bringing up the rear. At the east end of the attic were two windows. Mr. Replogle stationed himself at one of them and two of his children stood at the other. Then Mr. Replogle called upon them to fall on their knees and join with him in prayer. Mrs. Aaron and her child knelt down at a bed about the middle of the room, while the others huddled together at the windows. Presently the house was slightly raised from its foundation and tilted up at the east end. This lowered the west end, the cruel water rushed in and Mrs. Aaron and her little one sank beneath it.

Not aware of their fate, Mr. Replogle opened the windows and assisted the members of his family to the roof. Then he found that the others had disappeared. Clinging to a rafter, he tried to make his way to the west end of the room, but he found the undertaking an impossibility. He then joined his family on the roof. A ladder came floating toward him. He seized it and made a bridge of it to the next building, and over it his family passed. In the same manner they made their way from roof to roof until they reached a school building that seemed to be more substantial than the other structures. There they remained for several hours. Mr. Replogle finally succeeded in making an opening through the roof and they descended into the house. All night long they staid there in the impenetrable darkness, the water dashing with fearful noise and force against the house and threatening every moment to crush the building to pieces. At last daylight came and with it a rescuing party. The Replogles were told that they must leave their place of refuge, as it was growing unsafe. They obeyed, and again the perilous passage from roof to roof was resumed. A few minutes after they left the school house it was swept away. They again found a resting place in an attic, and they were prisoners all day and through another dreadful night. The weather had grown cold and they suffered severely. Although there was a stove in the room, they were forbidden to light a fire because of the danger of an explosion from escaping natural gas. On Sunday morning the rescuers returned and took the family to a place of permanent safety. They had been without food for two days and nights.

Mr. Replogle at once secured assistance and went to his house. On ascending to the attic they found Mrs. Aaron and her child wrapped in each other's arms, both dead. Meanwhile Mr. Aaron, alarmed at the news of the flood, started overland to Johnstown. Instead of a greeting with outstretched arms and joyous welcome, he found his beloved ones cold in death, and insensible to his presence.

I have also received word that Bro. Mahlon Keim and family were saved by taking refuge in the garret of their dwelling.

The church here will respond to the call for help from our brethren.

E. L. YODER.

OUR CHURCH.

Several articles in type could not be printed this week, for lack of room.

Bro. F. O. Switzer, of North Manchester, Ind., an old student, spent several days in Ashland last week.

The Brethren of Philadelphia are now worshipping in their new chapel, on 10th St., below Dauphin.

Bro. I. D. Bowman has returned from his trip to Virginia, and has taken up his pastoral duties in Ohio.

On Lord's Day, June 16th, one was baptized at Bro. J. M. Tombaugh's service at West Alexandria, Ohio.

We hear that the mail service has not been so far restored at Johnstown as to distribute packages of paper.

Dear Brother:—Find enclosed \$10.00 for the Brethren at Johnstown. The donation from my charge at Tiosa, Ind.—Wm. W. Summers.

Fannie Gharst writes an encouraging word from Jasper, Mo.,—expecting to hold a protracted meeting there in the near future.

The Carleton, Neb., church will dedicate their new church building on Sunday, June 7, 1889. All are invited to be present.—H. M. Lichty.

Sister M. M. Sterling says she is trying to make up for lost time, in her ministry. Are there not many more who feel that time is precious?

Bro. Josiah Keim and Sister Sarah, stopped with us over night on their return from Dayton last week. They are always most welcome visitors at Ashland.

Next week the Report of the Ohio Convention will be published in full. It was not possible to print it this week without great inconvenience, on account of its length.

JOHNSTOWN:—The Brethren at North Liberty and Ankneytown contributed over \$34.00 each for the Brethren at Johnstown. This is very good. The Lord bless these brethren.

This week the College term ends. Prof. Tombaugh, Shook and others are determined to have a school, and a booming one next year, whether we can hold the College or not.

We have about finished a booming catalogue for the University. Bro. Shook, Tombaugh and others are going to have a big school next year, whether the payment is made for the College or not, in July. Send in your name if you want one.

FOR JOHNSTOWN:—Please find enclosed draft for \$15.00; five of which is the public collection raised yesterday, per request of Bro. Rittgers, to aid in repairing the Brethren church at Johnstown; the remaining ten I give for the same purpose, or for the benefit of brethren and sisters rendered destitute by the great calamity, to be used as they think best.—Wm. M. Hamilton.

Several brethren have sent us a nice list of names on the grand premium offer. One has sent ten, saying that if two hundred persons would send ten each our list would be increased 2,000 at once. Remember you get a book, Julia A. Wood's, Northern Travels, including her autobiography, and account of her remarkable conversion, in all 160 pages, paper cover, free for every subscriber you send in for the balance of the year, at 60 cts. each. Do not let this opportunity pass.

Subscription to Repair the Johnstown Church.

The Ashland City Church and S. S.	\$25.00
Bunker Hill Church by W. W. Summers	7.08
S. M. Kimmel, 1.00; Lee Erb, to: T. Schullis, 50; Lula Bohn 35	2.35
Mary Moore	5.00
Tiosa Church, by W. W. Summers,	10.00
Wm. M. Hamilton, personal and church donation	15.00
Deposited by Bro. Rittgers,	75.00
	120.43
Paid,	10.00
Total to cr. church,	110.43